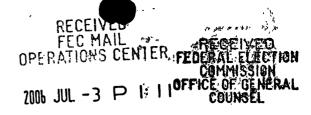


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Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP



July 3, 2006

1 2006 JUL -3 P 1: 45

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Lawrence H. Norton, Esq. General Counsel Federal Election Commission 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 5750

Dear Mr. Norton:

This office represents the Club for Growth, Inc. PAC ("Club PAC") and its Treasurer, Patrick Toomey with respect to a June 14, 2006 letter from Mr. Jeff F. Jordan, transmitting a complaint ("Complaint") designated Matter Under Review ("MUR") 5750 by the Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission"). An executed Designation of Counsel Form is attached hereto at Tab A.

As we show below, the Complaint simply does not allege any facts that constitute a violation by Club PAC. But a series of threshold defects require that the June 14 letter be withdrawn or that the Complaint be dismissed before that ultimate question is reached.

To begin with, the Commission's statute and regulations specify that, if the Commission staff wishes to proceed on a complaint against a respondent, it "shall" send that respondent notice and a copy "within five (5) days" after receipt. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(1); 11 C.F.R. § 111.5(a). The June 14 letter treats Club PAC as a respondent but withheld service for weeks "due to administrative oversight" of some unexplained nature. This is, of course, the second time that the Commission has violated the right of the Club for Growth and Club PAC to prompt notice. See MUR 5365. As a law enforcement organization, the Commission should model respect for law and accept the consequences of its failure to comply with clear obligations. To avoid reducing the 5-day notice requirement to a hollow mockery, the June 14 letter should be withdrawn or the Complaint dismissed as to Club PAC.

The June 14 letter also violates other explicit and mandatory regulations. 11 C.F.R. § 111.4 & 111.5. Section 111.4(d)(1) requires an administrative complaint to

The date stamp on the Complaint shows it was received by the Commission on May 19, 2006. Thus, it should have been sent to all respondents by May 26, 2006. But it was not sent to the Club PAC until June 14, a full 19 days late – a multiple of the mandatory 5-day period

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Lawrence H. Norton, Esq. July 3, 2006 Page 2

"clearly identify <u>as a respondent</u> each person or entity who is alleged to have committed a violation," and Section 111.4(d)(3) requires "a <u>clear</u> and concise <u>recitation</u> of the <u>facts which describe a violation</u>" by that person (emphasis added). Section 111.5(a) mandates immediate staff review to determine whether the purported complaint substantially complies with these requirements, and Section 111.5(b) specifies that "no action shall be taken" on the filing except for notice to the complaining party.

In this case, the purported Complaint does <u>not</u> identify Club PAC <u>as a respondent</u>. It makes a few references to the Club for Growth that, in light of the attachments, may be understood to mean Club PAC. However, far from naming Club PAC as a violator, the Complaint says "the Club for Growth has apparently complied with the Commission's requirement." This is no oversight. To the contrary, the Complaint opens by identifying the respondent: "Please accept this letter as a formal complaint against Laffey US Senate." Nor, as we discuss below, does the Complaint even purport to describe a violation by Club PAC.

Serving a complaint and notice to respond imposes serious burden, disruption, and expense on an entity. The regulations requiring the Commission to be sure a complaint contains explicit identification of respondents and clear factual allegations of violation before serving notice protect core First Amendment values. Moreover, the Commission is bound to follow its own regulations. Because the Complaint here fails to meet the standards for service, the June 14 letter should be withdrawn and the Complaint dismissed as to Club PAC.

The June 14 letter and attached Complaint also violate Section 111.6 of the Commission's regulations as they relate to the Club PAC. As subsection (a) makes clear, the notice and Complaint must give the respondent an "opportunity to demonstrate that no action should be taken on the basis of a complaint." Clearly, this contemplates a <u>fair</u> opportunity to respond to the <u>clearly described factual violation</u> required by the rules just discussed. Where, as here, the notice and Complaint fail to provide such clear factual notice, they fail to provide the "opportunity" required by subsection (a).

Subsection (b) forbids the Commission from taking action against a respondent without considering its response to the fair opportunity mandated by subsection (a). Because the June 14 letter and Complaint fail to clearly describe a factual violation,

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Lawrence H. Norton, Esq. July 3, 2006 Page 3

Club PAC has not been given a fair opportunity for response. Thus, the Commission is precluded from proceeding against the Club by subsection (b).

Finally, no part of the Complaint or the materials attached to it alleges a violation on the part of Club PAC with respect to the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended ("Act"). Two bullet points in the complaint relate to the Laffey campaign's handling of funds properly transmitted to the Laffey campaign by the Club PAC pursuant to 11 C.F.R. § 110.6. But there is no allegation that these facts constitute a violation, nor do they. To the contrary, the Complaint states that they were lawful.²

For each of these reasons, the Commission should withdraw the June 14 letter and dismiss or otherwise take no further action on the Complaint with respect to Club PAC. If the Commission decides to reach the merits of this Complaint, it should find no reason to believe a violation occurred on the part of Club PAC.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Laham

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Attached hereto at Tab B is a sample provided to us by Club PAC of what it regularly and timely sends the Laffey campaign with respect to earmarked member contributions (credit card numbers are redacted). As can be seen, this process fulfills the PAC's requirements under section 110.6 of the Commission's regulations.



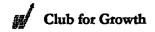
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION Office of General Counsel 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL Please use one form for each Respondent/Witness FAX (202) 219-3923

MUR: 5750	
COUNSEL:	Carol A. Laham
FIRM:	Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP
ADDRESS:	1776 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006
TELEPHONE -	OFFICE: (202) 719-7301
FAX: (202) 7	19–7049
The above	ve-named individual is hereby designated as my counsel and is
authorized to red	Signature ceive any notifications and other communications from the Commission PRESIDENT / TREASUREST
authorized to real and to act on my	y behalf before/ihe Commission.
authorized to real and to act on my block by blo	y behalf before/fine Commission. TREASURE Title Title
authorized to real and to act on my block by blo	Signature Club for Growth, Inc. PAC
authorized to reand to act on my bate Date RESPONDENT/	Signature PRESIDENT / TREASURE / Title WITNESS NAME (PRINT): Club for Growth, Inc. PAC RESS: 2001 L Street, NW, Suite 600

Information is being sought as part of an investigation being conducted by the Federal Election Commission and the confidentiality provisions of 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12)(A) apply. This section prohibits making public any investigation conducted by the Federal Election Commission without the express written consent of the person under investigation

Rev. 2004



Page 1 of 1 Run: 6/29/2006 3:11:47 PM Transmitted: 4/28/2006

Earmarked Receipts for Laffey, Steve for US Senate

N. T.I. T. D.L		27/4	Cl. 1 . #05.00	4/01/000/10	
Mr John L. Baker 800 North Benton Street		N/A Retired	Check: \$25.00	4/21/2006 12:	
Angier, NC 27501-8967		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200		···	
Mr. Robert D. Hofer	Emp:		Check: \$20.00	4/21/2006 12:	
537 Miner Farm Road Apt. 537		Retired	-	• •	
Chazy, NY 12921-2206		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Mr. Robert A. File's	Emp:		Check: \$150.00	4/24/2006 12:	
10418 E. Celestial Drive	Occ:	Retired Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Scottsdale, AZ 85262-5120		Larrey 2006 election (003) (Finnary 200			
Mr. James Carey	Emp:		Check: \$5.00 -	4/24/2006 12:	
272 Pond Lane	Occ:	Retired			
Sequim, WA 98382-8923		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Mr. Rob Roy Mc Donald		Caltech	Check: \$100.00	4/24/2006 12·	
P.O. Box 769	Occ:	Retired			
La Canada, CA 91012		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Mr. Randolph Houchins	Emp:	Cellnet Technology, Inc.	Check: \$100.00	4/26/2006 12:	
5575 Preserve Cir	Occ:	Attorney			
Alpharetta, GA 30005-8908		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Mr. Robert Stambaugh	Emp:	n.a	Check: \$100.00	4/26/2006 12:	
9005 Lindante Dr.	Occ:	Retured			
Whittier, CA 90603		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Dr. Charles E. Law, Jr.	Emp:	Self	Check: \$150.00	4/26/2006 12:	
3400 Ben Lomond Pl, #304		M.D.	-		
Los Angeles, CA 90027		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Mr. Lee E. Orr	Emp:	Wausau-Mosinee Paper Corp.	Check: \$40.00	4/27/2006 12:	
2061 Cook Rd	Occ.	Chairman	-	• •	
Ruston, LA 71270-3222		Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200			
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Reifenheiser	Emp:	n.a Cred	it Card: \$500.00	4/27/2006 12:	
9 Watchtower Road		Retired	MasterCard:		
Darien, CT 06820 Laffey 2006 election (603) (Primary 200 Exp Date: 1/2008					

Total for Laffey, Steve for US Senate:

\$1,190.00 # 10